

Remarks

This is a Response to the Official Action dated November 30, 2004.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in the Application and Claims 17-25 are newly presented herein.

This response amends Claims 1-6, 9-10 and 13-14 to clarify the claims.

This response adds new claims 17-25. The new claims are used to broaden the scope of the invention and are **not** offered in response to the Examiner's rejections. Support for the new Claims 17-25 can be found in the original Claims 1-6, Figures 3 and 4 and on pages 3-6 of the specification.

Drawings objections

The Examiner objects to Figure 1 for including a reference number "13" not mentioned in the description. Figure 1 has been amended by deleting the reference number "13."

Hence, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Figueroa (U.S. Patent No. 5,192,129) and further in view of Azuma (U.S. Patent No. 5,161,880).

Applicants submit that the Examiner has **not** established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants note:

"To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. **Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must**

teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure" (emphases added) *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Applicants submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to show that Figueroa and Azuma teach each and every element as claimed in the present application.

Claim 1

Applicants submit that Figueroa and Azuma do not disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, at least the following features recited by Claim 1, as amended, of the present application:

"...wherein light beams from the illumination tube enter the diffuser directly and through reflections from the first reflecting portion, the second reflecting portions and the third reflecting portions" (emphasis added)

Figueroa discloses a parabolically shaped reflector with a plurality of jagged edges along the entire surface of the parabolically shaped reflector. See Figures 1 and 3 of Figueroa. Figueroa further discloses a light source "1" disposed at what appears to be a focal point of the parabolically shaped reflector. See Figure 3 of Figueroa. Although Figueroa does not disclose a "diffuser" as recited in Claim 1, the Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the diffuser of Azuma in the backlight module to diffuse light for purpose of providing a uniform light distribution. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that the Examiner has not established the proper motivation to combine Figueroa and Azuma. However, even if such references are combined, Applicants submit that the combination would not teach at least the features of Claim 1 stated above for the following reasons.

Applicants submit the combination of Figueroa and Azuma would produce the following: light generated by the light source “1” of Figueroa would enter the diffuser of Azuma after being reflected from all the jagged edges along the entire surface of the parabolically shaped reflector of Figueroa.

In the combination describe above, one skilled in the art would not arrive at the backlight module “wherein the light beams from the illumination tube enter the diffuser directly and through reflections from the first reflecting portion, the second reflecting portions and the third reflecting portions” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Applicants submit that the combination of Figueroa and Azuma does not teach each and every element as claimed in the present invention and the Examiner has **not** established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2-8 and 17 depend from Claim 1. “If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Therefore, in light of the above discussion of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 2-8 and 17 are also allowable.

Claim 9

Applicants submit that Figueroa and Azuma do not disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, at least the following features recited by Claim , as amended, of the present application:

“...a reflecting plate disposed under the diffuser and having a curved surface, a plurality of planar surfaces and a plurality of triangular protrusions, wherein the curved surface is disposed between two adjacent planar surfaces and the two adjacent planar surfaces are disposed between two adjacent triangular protrusions; and an illumination tube disposed between the diffuser and the reflecting plate and located above the curved surface and between the two adjacent triangular protrusions, wherein light beams from the illumination tube enter the diffuser directly and through reflections from the curved surface, the planar surfaces and the triangular protrusions” (emphasis added)

Figueroa discloses a parabolically shaped reflector with a plurality of jagged edges along the entire surface of the parabolically shaped reflector. See Figures 1 and 3 of Figueroa. Figueroa further discloses a light source “1” disposed at what appears to be a focal point of the parabolically shaped reflector. See Figure 3 of Figueroa. Although Figueroa discloses semicircular surfaces “76,” Figueroa does not teach, disclose or suggest “the curved surface is disposed between two adjacent planar surfaces and the two adjacent planar surfaces are disposed between two adjacent triangular protrusions” (emphasis added) as recited in amended Claim 9.

Further, although Figueroa does not disclose a “diffuser” as recited in Claim 9, the Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the diffuser of Azuma in the backlight module to diffuse light for purpose of providing a uniform light distribution. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that the Examiner has not established the proper motivation to combine Figueroa and Azuma. However, even if such references are combined, Applicants submit that the combination would not teach at least the features of Claim 9 stated above for the following reasons.

Applicants submit the combination of Figueroa and Azuma would produce the following: light generated by the light source “1” of Figueroa would enter the diffuser of Azuma after being reflected from all the jagged edges along the entire surface of the parabolically shaped reflector of Figueroa.

In the combination describe above, one skilled in the art would not arrive at the backlight module “wherein the light beams from the illumination tube enter the diffuser directly and through reflections from the curved surface, the planar surfaces and the triangular protrusions” as recited in amended Claim 9.

Applicants submit that combination of Figueroa and Azuma does not teach each and every element as claimed in the present invention and the Examiner has **not** established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 10-12 and 18 depend from Claim 9. Therefore, in light of the above discussion of Claim 9, Applicants submit that Claims 10-12 and 18 are also allowable.

Claim 13

Applicants submit that Figueroa and Azuma do not disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, at least the following features recited by Claim 13, as amended, of the present application:

“...wherein light beams from the illumination tube enter the diffuser directly and through reflections from the first triangular protrusion, the planar surfaces and the second triangular protrusions” (emphasis added)

Figueroa discloses a parabolically shaped reflector with a plurality of jagged edges along the entire surface of the parabolically shaped reflector. See Figures 1 and 3 of Figueroa. Figueroa further discloses a light source “1” disposed at what appears to be a focal point of the parabolically shaped reflector. See Figure 3 of Figueroa. Although Figueroa does not disclose a “diffuser” as recited in Claim 13, the Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the diffuser of Azuma in the backlight module to diffuse light for purpose of providing a uniform light distribution. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that the Examiner has not established the proper motivation to combine Figueroa and Azuma. However, even if such references are combined, Applicants submit that the combination would not teach at least the features of Claim 9 stated above for the following reasons.

Applicants submit the combination of Figueroa and Azuma would produce the following: light generated by the light source “1” of Figueroa would enter the diffuser of Azuma

after being reflected from all the jagged edges along the entire surface of the parabolically shaped reflector of Figueroa.

In the combination describe above, one skilled in the art would not arrive at the backlight module “wherein the light beams from the illumination tube enter the diffuser directly and through reflections from the first triangular protrusion, the planar surfaces and the second triangular protrusions” as recited in amended Claim 13.

Applicants submit that combination of Figueroa and Azuma does not teach each and every element as claimed in the present invention and the Examiner has **not** established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 14-16 and 19 depend from Claim 13. Therefore, in light of the above discussion of Claim 13, Applicants submit that Claims 14-16 and 19 are also allowable.

Patentability of new Claim 20

New Claim 20 recites “a diffuser; a reflecting plate disposed under the diffuser having a first reflective surface and a second surface, the first reflective surface comprising: a plurality of first reflective protrusions disposed along a longitudinal direction of the reflecting plate; at least one second reflective protrusion disposed along the longitudinal direction of the reflecting plate and between adjacent first protrusions; an illumination tube disposed along the longitudinal direction of the reflecting plate and between the adjacent first reflective protrusions and above the second reflective protrusion, wherein a portion of the light generated by the illumination tube enters the diffuser directly from the illumination tube and a majority of the remaining light from the illumination tube enters the diffuser after being reflected from the first reflective surface that is between the peaks of the adjacent first reflective protrusions.” Applicants submit that at least some of these features are not disclosed by the prior art cited by the Examiner.

Hence, Claim 20 is patentable and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claims 21-25, at least based on their dependency on Claim 20, are also believed to be patentable.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

February 24, 2005

(Date of Deposit)

Corinda Humphrey

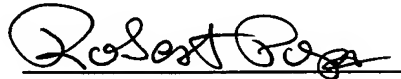
(Name of Person Signing)


(Signature)

February 24, 2005

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached replacement sheet of a drawing includes changes to Fig. 1, where reference number “13” is deleted. The replacement sheet is intended to replace Fig. 1 currently before the Examiner.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet